

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 104482

41

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TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

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UNCLAS STATE 104482

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EC JA

SUBJECT: EARTHENWARE AND CHINAWARE ARTICLES: PRESIDENT
DECIDES TO TERMINATE SOME AND PHASE OUT OTHER ESCAPE CLAUSE
TARIFF INCREASES

REF: STATE 90586

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PRESS RELEASE ISSUED BY THE OFFICE
OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR TRADE NEGOTIATIONS APRIL
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PAGE 02 STATE 104482

30 ANNOUNCING THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS DECIDED NOT TO EXTEND
SOME ESCAPE CLAUSE TARIFF INCREASES AND PHASE OUT OTHERS
APPLYING TO CERTAIN CERAMIC TABLEWARE ITEMS: BEGIN TEXT:

IMPORT RELIEF TARIFF PROTECTION FOR DOMESTIC PRODUCERS OF CERTAIN CERAMIC EARTHEN TABLE AND KITCHENWARE ARTICLES -- GRANTED IN 1972 -- WILL BE TERMINATED ON SOME ITEMS, AND CONTINUED FOR ONE YEAR AND SUBSEQUENTLY PHASED-OUT ON OTHERS, PRESIDENT FORD HAS DETERMINED. THESE DECISIONS WERE ANNOUNCED TODAY BY AMBASSADOR FREDERICK B. DENT, THE PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR TRADE NEGOTIATIONS.

THE PRESIDENT'S DETERMINATIONS ARE IN RESPONSE TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTERAGENCY TRADE POLICY COMMITTEE,

FOLLOWING FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE U.S. INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION RESULTING FROM ITS INVESTIGATION OF A PETITION BY THE AMERICAN DINNERWARE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR CONTINUANCE OF THE HIGHER TARIFF RELIEF, FILED LAST OCTOBER 30.

THE PRESIDENT DETERMINED THAT THE CERAMIC DINNERWARE INDUSTRY HAS SUBSTANTIALLY -- BUT NOT COMPLETELY -- ADJUSTED TO IMPORT COMPETITION WHICH CAUSED SERIOUS INJURY TO DOMESTIC FIRMS AND WORKERS.

SINCE THE PURPOSE OF "ESCAPE CLAUSE" IMPORT RELIEF IS TO PROVIDE TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE TO DOMESTIC PRODUCERS TO ADJUST TO SUCH COMPETITION, THE PRESIDENT ENDED THE TARIFF INCREASES ON ITEMS WHICH HE DETERMINED TO HAVE ADJUSTED TO COMPETITION, AND ORDERED THE EXTENSION OF TARIFF INCREASES FOR ONE YEAR AND THEIR SUBSEQUENT PHASING DOWN AND OUT OVER A THREE YEAR PERIOD FOR THOSE ITEMS WHICH ARE STILL IN THE PROCESS OF ADJUSTING.

THE PRESIDENT ALSO DIRECTED THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR TRADE NEGOTIATIONS TO REVIEW THE CLASSIFICATION AND RATES OF DUTY ON DINNERWARE AND RELATED ARTICLES (SCHEDULE 5, PART 2, SUBPART C OF THE TARIFF SCHEDULES OF THE UNITED STATES) TO DETERMINE IF CHANGES ARE NECESSARY TO CLOSE TARIFF LOOPHOLES AND CHANGE OBSOLETE DESCRIPTIONS
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PAGE 03 STATE 104482

BROUGHT ABOUT BY CURRENCY CHANGES AND INFLATION, AND TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS TO MAKE ANY CHANGES HE CONSIDERS NECESSARY.

PARTS OF SEVEN CATEGORIES OF CERAMIC TABLEWARE UNDER THE TARIFF SCHEDULES OF THE UNITED STATES (TSUS) RECEIVED IMPORT RELIEF IN THE FORM OF HIGHER TARIFFS AS A RESULT OF THE 1972 ESCAPE CLAUSE CASE.

THE INCREASED DUTIES WILL BE TERMINATED AS OF THE CLOSE BUSINESS APRIL 30 ON EARTHEN AND CHINA STEINS AND MUGS, AND ON LOW-PRICED EARTHEN TABLEWARE, AND PHASED DOWN AND TERMINATED ON APRIL 30, 1979 ON CERTAIN HIGH-PRICED

EARTHEN DINNERWARE AND OTHER TABLEWARE, AND ON CERTAIN
LOW-PRICED AND MEDIUM-PRICED CHINA TABLEWARE. END TEXT.

2. US MISSION OECD PARIS INFORM THE OECD SECRETARIAT. US
MISSION GENEVA NOTIFY THE GATT SECRETARIAT REQUESTING
THAT THE CITED TEXT BE CIRCULATED FOR THE INFORMATION OF
THE CONTRACTING PARTIES.

3. COPIES OF PROCLAMATION IMPLEMENTING PRESIDENTIAL
DECISION WILL BE AIRPOUCHED ASAP. SISCO

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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TAGS: ETRD, XT, JA, US, EEC
To: BONN
LONDON
TOKYO
GENEVA
EC BRUSSELS
OECD PARIS

MTN GENEVA

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